



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Food and
Nutrition
Service

Mountain
Plains
Region

1244 Speer Boulevard
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Reply to SP-00-08
Attn. of: CACFP-600

Subject: Infant Meal Pattern Questions and Answers

To: STATE AGENCY DIRECTORS
(Child Nutrition Programs)

Colorado DPHE, Colorado ED
Iowa, Kansas, Missouri DH,
Missouri ED, Montana OPI
Montana DPHHS, Nebraska,
North Dakota, South Dakota,
Utah and Wyoming ED

The following questions are in response to the November 15, 1999, Interim Rule which authorized the reimbursement for meals served in the Child And Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and the School Breakfast Program (SBP) which contain only breast milk.

1. Q. When an infant is transitioning from breast milk to formula, it is common to provide the infant with both foods, to gradually ease the infant into consuming formula in place of breast milk. During this transition period, when an infant is receiving both breast milk and formula, is the meal reimbursable?
 - A. Yes. From birth through 7 months, any one meal which contains some quantity of breast milk is reimbursable. (Similarly, meals containing only infant formula provided by the provider are also reimbursable. However, meals containing only parent-provided formula, and no other meal components, may not be reimbursed.)

2. Q. If the mother comes into the day care home or center where her child is in care and breastfeeds her infant, is the meal reimbursable?

A. No. While we support all efforts for mothers to breastfeed their infants, it is our intention that the provider must provide some type of "service" in order to be reimbursed for a meal. The Interim Rule authorizes meals as reimbursable if the provider bottle feeds an infant breast milk that has been previously expressed by the mother, as it takes effort to prepare the bottle and feed the baby.
3. Q. Is the meal reimbursable if a provider breastfeeds her own infant?

A. Yes, as long as the infant is otherwise eligible to receive reimbursement (i.e., the provider is income eligible).
4. Q. The preamble to the Interim Rule states that "the Department is amending the program regulations to permit reimbursement for meals served to infants younger than 8 months that contain breast milk and no other items." For snack, bread/crackers is optional for an 8 - 11 month old with breast milk or formula being the only required food item. If the parent provides breast milk for a 9-month old infant, is the snack reimbursable if no other food items are provided by the provider?

A. Yes.

All State Agency Directors

3

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to call.

Mary Nelson

for STELLA NASH, Acting Regional Director
Child Nutrition Programs